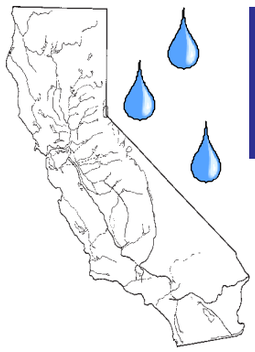

Features In Write-On · EDT Regulations · MTBE, Perchlorate and NDMA In Drinking Water · Write-On For Windows 2.0 Released

# *EDT* INFORMATION

FALL 1999 ISSUE

Drinking Water information from the California Department of Health Services Drinking Water Program

## Features available in Write-On

### Searching for sources and systems

This is the fourth in a series of articles about Write-On for Windows. In this issue we describe the new source and system search feature in version 2.0 of the software.

The search operation allows you to look for a water system or source when you don't know its complete name or number. You can enter part of the name or number and Write-On will search all of the libraries for your entry. All systems or sources will be listed which contain that entry. A system or source from the list can be implanted into input forms as explained below.

### Setting up Search Conditions

To begin a search click the binocular icon on the button bar. The Find a Source or System dialog box will appear (Figure 1). There are two criteria that must be entered here. First you must choose whether you wish to find a water system or a source by clicking the appropriate button. Next you must enter some search text in the key-in field. For example, if you want to find a water system in the Tahoe area, you might key in "tahoe". The search operation will look to see if the text exists in any of the library records. It is useful in selecting search text to know what information exists in library records. They are listed below:

System Library Records
-system number
-system name

Source Library Records
- state source number
- FRDS source number (system no. + sequence no.)
- source name

To begin the search either press the Enter key or click the search button at the bottom of the dialog box. Write-On will then begin looking for the text entry in the library files as indicated by the progress bar moving across the top of the screen. There are several considerations and tips which can be helpful when entering search text:

- Select text which is as specific as possible. Avoid very general terms like "well 2", "system", and "city of". The result will be many hundreds or thousands of hits on your list which will be very difficult to handle. Also, the greater the number of hits in a search, the longer the search will take.
- If you wish to search for a short text item that might also appear in longer words ( "art", "low", "bee"), type a space before and after the text during entry to avoid listing sources having the longer words.
- Search text entry is case-independent. In other words, if you enter "aqueduct", Write-On will look for both "aqueduct" and "Aqueduct".
- Searches can be conducted for system and source numbers by entering them as the search text. The latter augments the global source number search available during data entry on a form. All of the sources in a system can be found by selecting a source search and entering the system number as the search text.

### Viewing and Using Search Results

When a search is completed, the Search Results window appears with an alphabetical listing of all matching sources or systems (Figure 2). The list will include every source or system that has a record containing the search text. A system search result will list the system name, system number and user ID. A source search result will list source name, state source number and system name. The number of matches is indicated at the top of the list. The list can be printed by clicking the print button at the top of the list.

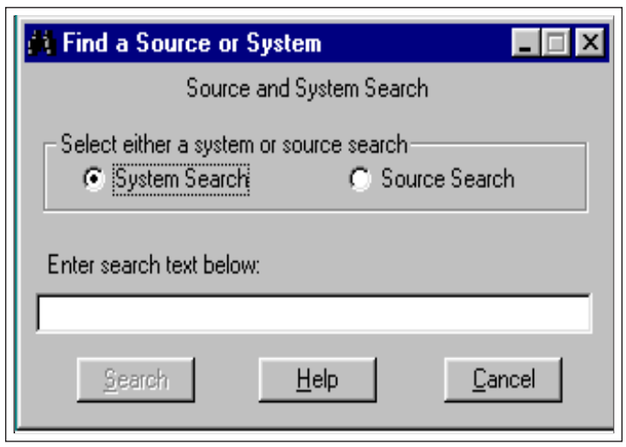


*Figure 1 - Find a Source or System dialog box*

### Using Search Result List To Open Input Form

You can use the search result list to open an analysis input form with the selected system and/or source embedded into it. To do so, double-click on the desired

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## Write-On for Windows 2.0 Released

The first major upgrade of Write-On for Windows is now available for download at the Department's web page. The most important new feature is a search function which will aid users to find systems and sources and to add them to analysis forms. A new dockable button bar has also been added to the software. Bugs reported by users have been corrected and documented, and the organic and inorganic chemical forms have been updated with several new chemicals.The upgrade is available for downloading from the Drinking Water's site at:
**http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/**

## MTBE, Perchlorate, and NDMA In California Drinking Water

The DHS Drinking Water Program continued to collect data on the occurrence of two contaminants of drinking water, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) and perchlorate. In addition, DHS has moved forward with regulations for them, particularly MTBE. Recently, the contaminant N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) has been found in drinking water sources.

### MTBE

In February 1997, the Drinking Water Program adopted a regulation that included MTBE, a gasoline additive, as an unregulated chemical for which monitoring is required. As of November 19, 1999, MTBE monitoring results indicate the presence of MTBE in 37 of 6,005 sampled ground water sources (0.6%) and 25 of 404 surface water sources (6.2%). Groundwater sources were reported to have MTBE contamination in eleven counties; surface water sources, in twelve counties.

On the regulatory front, in January 1999 DHS adopted a 5-ppb secondary maximum contaminant level (MCL) for MTBE to address taste and odor concerns about this drinking water contaminant. Also in 1999, DHS proposed a 13-ppb primary MCL to address the public health aspects of MTBE. Cal/EPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment adopted a Public Health Goal (PHG) of 13 ppb for MTBE in 1999, which used the risk of cancer (based on the results of laboratory animal studies) as the toxicological

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## California Drinking Water

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endpoint of concern. The public comment period for the proposed MCL closed on November 1, 1999, and DHS is evaluating those comments as part of the regulatory process. A primary MCL for MTBE should be adopted in 2000. Until a primary MCL for MTBE is adopted, DHS uses its 13-ppb action level to address health concerns. More information about MTBE is available at:
**http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/chemicals/MTBE/mtbeindex.htm**

### Perchlorate

Since January 1999, DHS adopted a regulation identifying perchlorate as an unregulated chemical for which monitoring is required. Perchlorate is an industrial chemical, primarily known as a component of solid rocket propellant (as ammonium perchlorate).

As of November 19, 1999, perchlorate was reported to be present in 160 of 1,299 sources sampled (12%). Detections have been reported in sources from five counties. Most reported detections are from ground water sources. However, the Colorado River is an important surface water source with low concentrations of perchlorate, reflecting releases into Lake Mead from prior ammonium perchlorate manufacturing facilities near Henderson, Nevada. DHS established in 1997 an action level of 18-ppb for perchlorate to address public health concerns. Perchlorate interferes with the thyroid gland's ability to utilize iodine to produce thyroid hormones, which are needed for normal metabolism, growth, and development. Cal/EPA's OEHHA is developing a PHG for perchlorate, which is anticipated to be released in draft form in the spring of 2000. More information about perchlorate is available at:
**http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/chemicals/perchl/perchlindex.htm**

### NDMA

In 1998, concern about the presence of N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) contamination at a northern California aerospace facility prompted investigations of the presence of NDMA in nearby sources of drinking water. Among its various industrial uses, NDMA is used in the production of liquid rocket fuel. As a result, NDMA was found in several drinking water wells. It has also been reported to be produced in waste water treatment, which may be important in water recyling projects involving wastewater discharges and ground water recharge. In addition, NDMA may be produced in certain drinking water treatment processes. DHS and some drinking water utilities are carrying out studies to look into this possibility. The health concerns about NDMA are related to its potential to cause cancer, based on laboratory animal studies. Based on its cancer risk, DHS established in 1998 an action level of 0.002 ppb for NDMA. However, few laboratories could measure NDMA at that concentration, so the detection limit became the de facto action level. There are now several laboratories that can measure NDMA at very low levels, and this ability enables investigations of the roles water quality and water treatment may play in NDMA production to proceed. In November 1999, DHS established a temporary action level of 0.02 ppb for NDMA, which will revert to the lower value once investigations are concluded. More information about NDMA is available at:
**http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/chemicals/NDMA/ndmaindex.htm**

### MORE INFORMATION

Readers who want to know more about specific chemical contaminants of current interest (updated monthly), as well as DHS drinking water action levels, MCLs, PHGs, and other topics should access the Drinking Water Program's web site, at **http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/chemicals/chemindex.htm.**

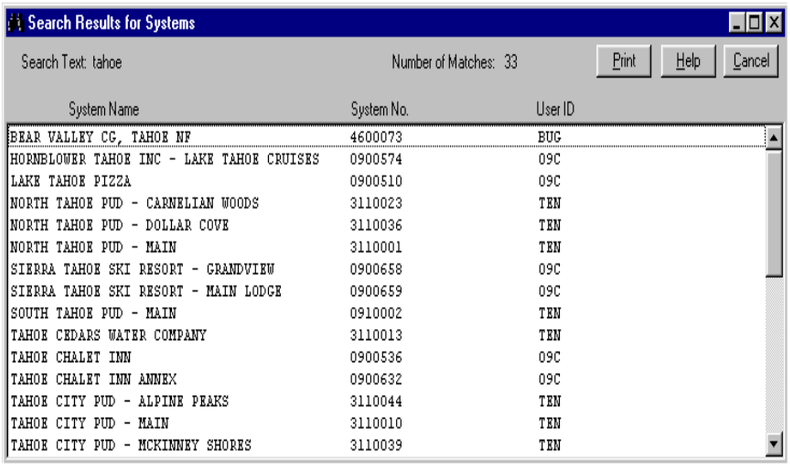


*Figure 2 - Search Results*

***ABOUT THE AUTHOR***
*Steve Book is a toxicologist with the California Department of Health Services Drinking Water Program, Sacramento headquarters office.*

# EDT Regulations Under Development

### Mandatory electronic reporting

The Department has completed draft regulations which will require that all public drinking water systems submit compliance monitoring data via EDT. The regulations are currently undergoing review by the Department's Office of Regulations, and can be seen at the Drinking Water web site at:
**http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem**

### Source and System Searches

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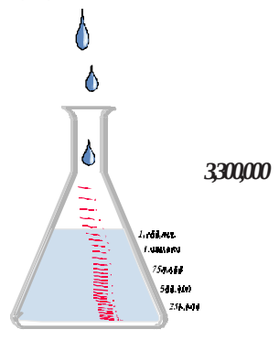
system or source on the list. A small form selection menu will appear. Select a form by either clicking on the desired form name or pressing the appropriate key (e.g. press "O" to open the Organic Chemicals form). When you select a form, it will appear on screen with the desired system and/or source information displayed on it. This operation augments the system/source listing in the reference operation.

The search operation can also be used to find and implant a system and/or source into an input form that is already open. This operation augments selection of systems and sources using the scrolling menus.

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EDT Information is mailed twice a year by the California Department of Health Services, Drinking Water Technical Programs Branch, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit. The office is located at 601 North 7th Street, Sacramento, California. The mailing address is P.O. Box 942732, Mail Station 92, Sacramento, California 94234-7320. The email address is edt@dhs.ca.gov, and the fax number is (916) 445-8878. Questions and comments should be sent to Mr. Anthony Meeks, who can be contacted at (916) 445-9083. Requests to be placed on the mailing list should be faxed, emailed or mailed to the attention of Mr. Anthony Meeks.

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